



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Interagency team accepting comments on draft Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy

BATON ROUGE – A review copy of the draft Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy is now available and the state is accepting public comment on it until Jan. 31, 2014. *Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy: Protection, Improvement, and Restoration of Water Quality in Louisiana's Water Bodies* focuses on factors such as nitrogen and phosphorus that may impact local water bodies as well as contribute to seasonal low dissolved oxygen in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Louisiana interagency team includes the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The team developed the strategy to support the goal of water quality protection, improvement and restoration within Louisiana's water bodies. This strategy represents Louisiana's contribution to the larger effort, along with other states in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB), to develop and implement strategies to address nutrient concerns. Nutrient loading accumulates from states within the basin and the water moves down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nutrient loading is attributed to the formation of a seasonal low dissolved oxygen (hypoxic) zone in the summer in the Gulf. While most of the nutrients are from sources upriver from Louisiana, the seasonal low dissolved oxygen zone primarily impacts Louisiana, so this issue is important for the state to address.

A stakeholder engagement and outreach phase promoted public participation for inclusion in this strategy. This strategy champions approaches to nutrient management specific to the state of Louisiana. It includes various implementation methods such as riverine diversions, nonpoint and point source management, voluntary participation in incentive-based programs, leveraging opportunities and science-based new technologies/applications. These drive nutrient solutions for impacts originating locally and help mitigate nutrient impacts from the MARB from upstream sources.

The review draft of the Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy is now available at <http://lanutrientmanagement.org/> and comments may be submitted on or before Jan. 31, 2014 electronically through the website or through postal mail to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), P.O. Box 44027, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4027. More information is available on the Louisiana Nutrient Management website at [www.lanutrientmanagement.org](http://www.lanutrientmanagement.org).